

**DECLARATION**

As a below-named inventor, I(we) hereby declare that:

**TYPE OF DECLARATION**

This declaration is of the following type:

- ☐ original
- ☐ design
- ☐ supplemental
- ☒ national stage of PCT
- ☐ divisional
- ☐ continuation
- ☐ continuation-in-part (CIP)

**INVENTORSHIP DECLARATION**

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (*if only one name is listed below*) or an original, first and joint inventor (*if plural names are listed below*) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**IMPROVED TISSUE SUPPORTING DEVICES**

the specification of which

- a) ☐ is being filed concurrently herewith
- b) ☐ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ and assigned Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_
- c) ☒ was filed as PCT International Application No. PCT/US95/06228  
filed on 18 May 1995 and amended under PCT Article 19 on 26 December 1995  
and which has been assigned U.S. Serial No. 08/737,497.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF REVIEW OF PAPERS AND DUTY OF CANDOR**

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations §1.56 including information occurring between the filing date of any prior application of which the present application is a continuation-in-part.

- ☐ In compliance with this duty there is attached an information disclosure statement. 37 CFR 1.97.

**PRIORITY CLAIM**

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119, of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international applications(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international applications(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me having the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

**EXPRESS MAIL NO.**

EMS1651159245

08737492-034997

- a) ☐ no such applications have been filed.  
b) ☐ such applications have been filed as follows:

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 37 USC 119
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

**CLAIM FOR BENEFIT OF EARLIER U.S./PCT APPLICATIONS(S) UNDER 35 U.S.C. §120**

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States applications(s) or PCT international applications(s) designating the United States of America that is/are listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in that/those prior applications(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior applications(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

- a) ☐ no such applications have been filed.  
b) ☒ such applications have been filed as follows.

U.S. APPLICATIONS	
SERIAL NUMBER	U.S. FILING DATE
1.08/246,320	19 May 1994
2.	
PCT APPLICATIONS DESIGNATING THE U.S.	
PCT APPLICATION NO.	PCT FILING DATE
3.	

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Telephone calls and correspondence should be directed to: Leoniede M. Brennan, VIDAS, ARRETT & STEINKRAUS, P.A., Suite 1540, 920 2nd Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55402-4014, Telephone: (612) 339-8801, Facsimile (612) 349-6858.

**First Inventor**

Full name: Paul H. Burmeister  
Inventor's signature: Paul H. Burmeister  
Date: 3/10/97  
Citizenship: United States of America  
Post office Address: 8554 Quarles Road North  
Maple Grove, Minnesota 55311 MN  
Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
(If different than above)

**Second Inventor**

Full name: Charles L. Euteneuer  
Inventor's signature: Charles L. Euteneuer  
Date: 2/27/97  
Citizenship: United States of America  
Post office Address: 1951 Lander Avenue N.E.  
St. Michael, Minnesota 55376 MN  
Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
(If different than above)

08737492-031997

**Third Inventor**

Full name:

Brian J. Brown

Inventor's signature:

Brian J. Brown

Date:

2/27/97

Citizenship:

United States of America

Post office Address:

178 Jandel Avenue N.E.  
Hanover, Minnesota 55341 MN

Residence:

(If different than above)

**Fourth Inventor**

Full name:

Paul J. Fordenbacher

Inventor's signature:

Paul J. Fordenbacher

Date:

3/13/97

Citizenship:

United States of America

Post office Address:

3015 James Avenue South 311 W. 49th. St.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 554089 MN 897

Residence:

(If different than above)

**Fifth Inventor**

Full name:

Anthony C. Vrba

Inventor's signature:

Anthony C. Vrba

Date:

2/26/97

Citizenship:

United States of America

Post office Address:

1266 - 88th Place North  
Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369 MN

Residence:

(If different than above)

**Sixth Inventor**

Full name:

Inventor's signature:

Date:

Citizenship:

Post office Address:

Residence:

(If different than above)

**Seventh Inventor**

Full name:

Inventor's signature:

Date:

Citizenship:

Post office Address:

Residence:

(If different than above)

**Eighth Inventor**

Full name:

Inventor's signature:

Date:

Citizenship:

Post office Address:

Residence:

(If different than above)

087349 2646680